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WE CLAIM:

1. A method of monitoring a safe, said method comprising the steps of:
2 providing an electronic lock for said safe;
recording information with a security device in an area proximate to said safe;
4 and
marking said information recorded by said security device during a transaction
6 with said electronic lock.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of recording information related
2 to a transaction associated with said safe.

3. The method of claim 2 further including a step of providing information
2 recorded by said security device at the time of said transaction to a control unit.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising a step of detecting a duress condition
2 at said safe.

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5. The method of claim 4 further comprising a step of marking said information
2 recorded by said security device at the time of said duress condition.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising a step of providing information related
2 to said duress condition to said control unit.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of detecting a state of a door for
2 said safe.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of providing said security
2 information recorded by said security device and information related to a transaction of
said electronic lock to an authorized user at a remote location.

9. A method of monitoring a safe, said method comprising the steps of:
2 providing an electronic lock for said safe;
recording information with a security device in an area proximate to said safe;
4 detecting a occurrence at said electronic lock; and
marking said information recorded with said security device at a time coincident
6 with said occurrence at said safe.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of detecting an occurrence comprises
2 detecting a transaction associated with said safe.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising a step of recording transaction
2 information related to said transaction associated with said safe.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising a step of providing said information
2 recorded with said security device and said transaction information to an authorized user
at a remote location.

13 The method of claim 11 further comprising a step of marking said information
2 recorded with said security device during said transaction.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of detecting an occurrence comprises
2 detecting a duress condition at said safe.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of marking said information
2 recorded with said security device at the time of said duress condition.

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16. The method of claim 9 further comprising a step of detecting a state of a door for
2 said safe.

17. A method of monitoring a safe, said method comprising the steps of:
2 providing an electronic lock for said safe;
receiving security information from a security device in an area proximate to said
4 safe;
recording transaction information related to a transaction with said safe;
6 marking said security information from said security device at a time coincident
with said transaction; and

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said step of receiving security information
2 from a security device comprises receiving visual information from a photographic
device.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising a step of time-stamping said visual
2 information.

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20. The method of claim 17 further comprising a step of detecting a duress condition
2 at said safe.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising a step of combining information
2 related to said duress condition with said security information.

22. The method of claim 17 wherein said step of marking comprising time stamping
2 said security information.

23. The method of claim 17 further comprising a step of detecting a state of a door
2 for said safe.

24. The method of claim 17 further comprising a step of providing said security
2 information and said transaction information to an authorized user at a remote location.

25. A method of monitoring a safe, said method comprising the steps of:

2 providing an electronic lock for said safe;

providing a security device in an area proximate to said safe; and

4 detecting a duress condition at said safe;

marking information recorded by said security device at a time coincident with
6 said duress condition.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising a step of recording transaction
2 information related to a transaction with said electronic lock of said safe.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein said step of detecting a duress condition
2 comprises detecting a predetermined code entered by a user on the electronic lock.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein said step of detecting a duress condition
2 comprises detecting a duress condition recorded by a sensor associated with said safe.

29. The method of claim 25 further comprising a step of saving information related
2 to said duress condition with said information recorded by said security device.

30. The method of claim 25 further comprising a step of detecting a state of a door
2 for said safe.

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31. The method of claim 25 further comprising a step of enabling the access of said
2 information recorded by said security device from a remote location.

32. The method of claim 25 further comprising a step of providing an audit trail of
2 said duress condition and said information recorded by said security device.

33. An apparatus for monitoring a safe, said apparatus comprising:
2 an electronic lock incorporated in a safe;
a control unit coupled to said electronic lock by way of an input/output port on
4 said safe; and
a security system coupled to said control unit.

34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said control unit is located within said safe.

35. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said control unit comprises a computer.

36. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein said computer comprises a remote computer
2 coupled to said electronic lock by way of a communications network.

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37. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein said computer comprises a memory.

38. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein said memory comprises a database having an
2 audit trail.

39. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said electronic lock comprises a bill reader.

40. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said electronic lock comprises a door sensor.

41. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said electronic lock comprises a duress
2 sensor.

42. An apparatus for monitoring a safe, said apparatus comprising:

2 an electronic lock means for controlling in a safe;

a control means coupled to said electronic lock for controlling said electronic
4 lock means; and

a security means coupled to said control unit for providing security information
6 related to a transaction of said safe.

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43. A system for monitoring a safe, said apparatus comprising:

- 2 an electronic lock coupled to a safe;
- a security device coupled to said electronic lock;
- 4 a local computer coupled to said electronic lock; and
- a remote computer coupled to said local computer by way of a communication
- 6 network.